

Remarks/Arguments

In the current application, claims 1-33 are cancelled. Claims 34-63 are new and fully supported by the specification. No new matter has been added to the prosecution of this application. For at least the reasons stated below, Applicant asserts all claims are in condition for allowance.

1. Correction in Claim Numbering.

As became apparent to Applicant in the previous correspondence regarding the above-referenced application, there is a discrepancy in claim numbering requiring correction. In presenting new claims in the Response filed December 26, 2002, Applicant overlooked the pre-existence of claims 19 and 20, which had previously been cancelled. New claims numbered 19-31 in the December 26, 2002 Response should have been numbered 21-33. Therefore, in the present paper Applicant presents new claims numbered 34-63, and cancels all previously pending claims.

2. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claims 19-31, renumbered 21-33, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶¶ 1 and 2, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement and allegedly because the claims failed to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In response to these rejections, Applicant cancels all pending claims and introduces new claims 34-63. Therefore, Applicant asserts that the rejections based upon 35

U.S.C. § 112 ¶¶ 1 and 2 are moot and should be withdrawn. Further, Applicant believes that all of the newly presented claims fully meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶¶ 1 and 2.

3. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 19-30, renumbered 21-32 in the present paper, were rejected under multiple combinations of prior art, specifically as unpatentable over Stovraff, U.S. Patent No. 5,866,145 (hereinafter "Stovraff") by itself or in combination with GB 1479 199; unpatentable over GB 1479 199 in view of JP 08113530 and/or Biener, U.S. Patent No. 4,943,432 (hereinafter "Biener"); unpatentable over GB 1479 199 in view of JP 08113530 and/or Biener and further in view of Stovraff. Claim 31, renumbered 33 in the present paper, was rejected as being unpatentable over Stovraff by itself or in combination with GB 1479 199; unpatentable over GB 1479 199 in view of JP 08113530 and/or Biener; unpatentable over GB 1479 199 in view of JP 08113530 and/or Biener, and further in view of Stovraff, and further in view of Chodosh, U.S. Patent No. 5,827,870 (hereinafter "Chodosh"). In light of the cancellation of claims 21-33, these rejections are rendered moot and should be withdrawn.

Additionally, new independent claims 34, 36, 38, 41, 48, 51, 61, and 63 are allowable over the cited art of record, Stovraff, Biener, Chodosh, GB 1479 199, and JP 08113530, either alone or in combination. Specifically, while Stovraff allegedly provides for differing concentrations of Dead Sea Salts, it does not teach or suggest the detailed composition now claimed by Applicant. Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Similarly, Stovraff in combination with GB 1479 199 may also allegedly provide for differing concentrations of Dead Sea Salts, however, the art in combination does not teach or

suggest the detailed composition now claimed by Applicant. Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Similarly, GB 1479 199 in combination with JP 08113530 and Biener may also allegedly provide for differing concentrations of Dead Sea Salts, however, the art in combination does not teach or suggest the detailed composition now claimed by Applicant. Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Similarly, GB 1479 199 in combination with JP 08113530 and Biener, and further in view of Stavroff, may also allegedly provide for differing concentrations of Dead Sea Salts, however, the art in combination does not teach or suggest the detailed composition now claimed by Applicant. Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Similarly, GB 1479 199 in combination with JP 08113530 and Biener, and further in view of Stavroff and Chodosh, may also allegedly provide for differing concentrations of Dead Sea Salts, however, the art in combination does not teach or suggest the detailed composition now claimed by Applicant. Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that, for at least the reasons stated above, all pending claims are allowable over the art of record and respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes that a teleconference would be of value in expediting the allowance of the pending claims, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number listed below. If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is hereby

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authorized to charge or credit any such fees or overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1901

(Reference #17649-20).

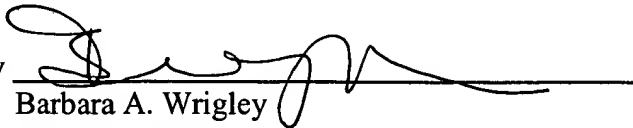
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Respectfully submitted,

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